THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. As per Maruti Udyog Ltd., (MUL) it has not resorted to compulsory retirement of handicapped employees.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New heavy industry in Assam

2189. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any new heavy industry in hilly area of Assam during the years 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Heavy Industry has no proposal to set up any new public sector unit in hilly area of Assam during 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003.

News-item "Indian diesel engines are outdated"

2190. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian diesel engines are outdated", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 8th November, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the diesel engines are ancient and the economic figure for diesel engine cars is far below those of petrol engine cars;

(c) whether it is also a fact that particularly in Germany the technology on diesel engine has progressed tremendously; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to bring the Indian technology on diesel engine up-to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, automotive diesel engines used in passenger cars and Multi Utility Vehicles are meeting Bharat Stage-II (Euro-II equivalent) emission norms in Delhi from April, 2000 and commercial vehicles in all metros for city operations from October, 2001.

(c) and (d) The technology in Germany is designed to meet Euro III emission norms being introduced in Europe for different categories of diesel vehicles while the same are expected to be introduced in seven mega cities in India from 2005.

Accumulated loss of HMT

2191. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated losses of HMT, so far;

(b) whether Government have any financial package for the HMT; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The accumulated losses of HMT as on 31 st March, 2001 are Rs. 379 crore.

(b) For HMT Limited a revival plan was approved in July, 2000 consisting infusion of fresh equity of Rs. 250 crore for liquidation of debentures/dues of FIs and Banks and payment of outstanding statutory dues, equity of Rs. 15.10 crore for capital expenditure conversion of outstanding loan of Rs. 39.70 crore to equity and waiver of accumulated interest theron of Rs. 12.74 crore, guarantee for VRS bonds of Rs. 469 crore with 50% interest subsidy and waiver of guarantee fee, an additional guarantee for raising working capital bonds of Rs. 40.43 crore for its Watch Business Group and grant-in-aid to meet salary and wages for the employees of Srinagar watch factory for three years as per Audited Accounts.

(c) HMT has been operating Voluntary Retirement Scheme from time to time for reduction of surplus manpower. The revival plan envisaged reduction of manpower to an extent of 6947 during two years *i.e.* 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.